

REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SCHOOL DISTRICT #6
NOVEMBER 13, 2023

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of School District Six was held at 6:00 P.M., Monday, November 13 2023, in the Boardroom of the administration offices at 501 Sixth Avenue West, Columbia Falls, Montana.

PRESENT:

Jill Rocksund..... Board Chair
Barbara Riley Vice Chair
Megan Upton..... Trustee
Justin Cheff..... Trustee
Wayne Jacobsmeyer Trustee
Casey Huepel Trustee
Cory Dziowgo Superintendent of Schools
Dustin Zuffelato Business Manager/ Clerk

ABSENT:

Keri Hill Trustee
Heather Mumby Trustee

Call to order at: 6:00 P.M.

Motion by Heupel, second by Upton, to approve the agenda as presented.
Public comment was requested and there was none.
Passed 6-0.

Motion by Upton, second by Cheff, to approve the consent agenda as follows:
- Approve September and October regular board meeting minutes with changing NSBA to COSSBA, October 16 Long Range Planning Committee meeting minutes, October 16 emergency meeting minutes, and October 23 special meeting minutes.
- Approve October bills.
- Approve the investment report.

Public comment was requested and there was none.
Passed 6-0

Public Participation:

Approximately ten (10) people participated in the meeting remotely via Zoom. Approximately twenty-two (22) people attended the meeting in person.

Student Body Co-President, McKenzie West, and Sophomore Student Representatives presented a written report to the Board. Trustee Barb Riley mentioned the many phone calls she received regarding the great job High School Students did for the Veterans Day Assembly.

Written Reports:

The Elementary School Principals provided the Board with written reports.

High School Principal, Jon Konen, provided the Board with a written report.

CALL TO ORDER

APPROVE AGENDA

APPROVE CONSENT
AGENDA

PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION:

REPORTS:

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Special Education Director, Michelle Swank, provided the Board with a written report.

Curriculum Director, Mark McCord, provided the Board with a written report.

Committee minutes were provided to the Board. The minutes will be added to the agenda packets each month. It is important for Board Members to know what committees are doing, especially if not all trustees are members of the committees.

Trustee Barbara Riley provided the Board a written report about the recent proceedings of the Consortium of State School Board Associations (COSSBA) and the Montana School Board Association (MTSBA).

Verbal Reports:

District Business Manager/Clerk Dustin Zuffelato provided the Board with a written report. The food service program did some financial calculations and are understanding more options for the District under the USDA program. It would be beneficial to participate in the Community Eligibility Provision to provide all students free meals. Based on the District's free/reduced lunch eligibility data, the District would be reimbursed approximately 68% of meals served. This program is similar to that of the COVID years. The decision to participate must be made at the end of the current school year, effective for next year. This is all based on the number of free and reduced families in the District. If the District does participate in the USDA program, then we are committed to the program for four years. Another conversation could be about discontinuing the USDA program in an effort to release the nutritional content burden. Mr. Zuffelato and Superintendent Dzioewgo met with some food service workers from each school today and was told how hard it is to hold the line to not serve a child who may owe money. Transportation wants to purchase two more buses that run on propane for next school year. The District has received two buses this current year that have and are waiting on the delivery of one more. Upon final delivery, the DEQ grant requirements will be completed and the District will receive about \$40,000 for each of these three buses. Members of the Insurance Committee will be conducting a meeting with Logan Health on November 30 to discuss the current direct provider contract. The District is also hoping to get information regarding the Billings Clinic merger and how that partnership will work in the future. The District Business Office seems to have slowed down some and running more smoothly from the operations side of things. Especially after all of the changes to payroll, the late negotiations, and being short staffed for a while.

Superintendent Cory Dzioewgo would like to thank the Board for accepting the changes on the agenda with less oral reporting and more written reports. This change makes for more ability to address other pressing items. The construction regarding the roof above the upstairs classrooms at the High School is a day and a half ahead of schedule. The level of roof structure degradation is aligned with engineer/contractor expectations. Thank you to the High School for understanding and maintaining flexibility with the disruptions. The asphalt was replaced on the playground at Ruder Elementary - basketball courts.

Board Chair Jill Rocksund has received one correspondence regarding the attendance report. The District has made it possible for Board Members to look at the MTSBA videos from the MCEL Conference. Chair Rocksund encourages all to look at the sessions of interest. Members of the District and Community are encouraged to complete the Comprehensive

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Needs Assessment (CNA) survey on the website. The Board talked about the superintendent evaluation, but did not pick a timeline for completion. Chair Rocksund and Superintendent Dziowgo will visit and send information to the remaining Board Members. Mr. Mark McCord has offered to help with logins and information needed to complete each evaluation.

Action/Discussed Items:

District attendance data was presented by Superintendent Dziowgo. First addressing data on student attendance. The data will be shown each month throughout the year. Optimal learning is when both staff and students are in attendance. Attendance percentages have not returned to where they were pre-COVID. The goal has been to meet the 95% attendance threshold, but currently running between 90-93%. Principal Brenda Krueger mentioned how in 2021 the message was “you do not bring a child if they have a cough”. Parents are still in the “do I bring them or keep them home” phase, and that could be a contributing factor to the absences. The two recent months show attendance is increasing and getting better comparing September 2022 to September 2023 and October 2022 to October 2023. Unexcused days are declining in the last two months. Mr. Dziowgo presented teacher absences by the month. Mr. Dziowgo was surprised by the substitute teacher fill rates data. The hardest months to fill teacher absences are September, November, and May.

Superintendent Dziowgo discussed items that the District does not use any longer and there is no sense to hold on to. The Canyon Elementary recently filled up with tables and chairs from the High School remodel. It is likely that this furniture will be reused in the future. Clerk Zuffelato mentioned how important it is to ensure we are providing equal access for members of the community to items on the list and the District is not just throwing in the dump. Motion by Heupel, second by Jacobsmeyer, to approve Resolution 417 – Disposition of Abandoned, Obsolete and Undesirable Property. Public comment was requested and there was none. Passed 6-0.

Changes to Policy 3110 were brought about by HB 396. It addresses the waiver if a child is under the age of five or over nineteen. The Board will need to look at a case-by-case basis for students over nineteen. Motion by Heupel, second by Cheff, to approve revisions to Policy 3110 – Entrance, Placement, and Transfer. Public comment was requested and Principal Jon Konen asked if a nineteen-year-old would be added to the District’s ANB count, and how does this apply to kids with IEPs? These issues would need to be investigated further. Passed 6-0.

Motion by Heupel, second by Upton, to approve the addition of Policy 3120 – Compulsory Attendance to the policy manual. Public comment was requested and there was none. Passed 6-0.

Motion by Heupel, second by Cheff, to approve the revisions to Policy 3210 – Equal Educational Opportunity. Public comment was requested and there was none. Passed 6-0.

ACTION /
DISCUSSION ITEMS

ATTENDANCE DATA
PRESENTATION

MOTION TO APPROVE
RESOLUTION #417

MOTION TO APPROVE
POLICY #3110

MOTION TO APPROVE
POLICY #3120

MOTION TO APPROVE
POLICY #3210

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MOTION TO APPROVE
POLICY #3225

Motion by Heupel, second by Upton, to approve the revisions to Policy 3225 – Bullying, Harassment, Intimidation, and Hazing.
Public comment was requested and there was none.
Passed 6-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE
POLICY #3235

Motion by Heupel, second by Upton, to revisions to and changing the numbering of Policy #3097 – Video Surveillance to #3235.
Public comment was requested and there was none.
Passed 6-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE
POLICY #8225

Motion by Heupel, second by Jacobsmeyer, to approve the addition of Policy 8225 – Tobacco and Marijuana free Policy to the policy manual.
Public comment was requested and Principal Brenda Krueger requested this information be noted on signs posted within the schools.
Passed 6-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE
FACILITY USE AGREEMENT WITH GREATER
VALLEY HEALTH

The facility use agreement with Greater Valley Health is a continuation of the current contract changing from using the Canyon School space from three days per week to two days per week. In the future, there may be a possibility of changing to four days per week with the hiring of another physician.

Motion by Cheff, second by Jacobsmeyer, to approve the Canyon Elementary Facility Use Agreement between Greater Valley Health and School District #6 effective July 2023 to June 2024.
Public comment was requested and there was none.
Passed 6-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE
TRANSPORTATION
COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATIONS

Propane buses are helping the District costs of operations. The propane fuel contracts are fixed annually in the summer, when the cost is the lowest of the year. The parts for propane busses are proving to be a lot less than for diesel busses. New busses will need to be ordered early since there is starting to be a shortage of propane busses caused by supply and demand. The cost of the new busses went up 6% more than last year. Mileage reimbursement from the State is based on the capacity of students on a bus and is not any different for propane v diesel.
Motion by Heupel, second by Upton, to approve the Transportation Committee recommendation to purchase two route busses using the FY2025 Bus Depreciation Fund Budget.
Public comment was requested and there was none.
Passed 6-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE
HEALTH INSURANCE
COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATIONS

The District is currently using the same insurance consultant as last school year, but was paying on an hourly rate. By moving to a rate for the year with Jacq Creek Consulting, it will be easier to keep track of cost rather than documenting every minute of service. Health Liaisons for the District were hired and there is one member from each school and two from the High School.
Motion by Riley, second by Heupel, to approve the following Health Insurance Committee recommendations:
- Health liaison hiring recommendations.
- Consulting Agreement with Jacq Creek Consulting.
Public comment was requested and there was none.
Passed 6-0.

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The daycare, housed in the administration building, serves the District staff, but would like to add the possibility of opening up to the public. The terms of the proposed agreement provide first priority to staff members, but the change allowing the provider to serve other children (annually) after October 1 would help keep the daycare financially solid.

Motion by Cheff, second by Upton, to approve the Gateway to Early Learning Facility Use Agreement.

Public comment was requested and it was clarified that the daycare will reopen its slots exclusively to staff each July.

Passed 6-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE
FACILITY USE AGREEMENT WITH GATEWAY
TO EARLY LEARNING

Motion by Jacobsmeyer, second by Heupel, to approve the MOU between Glacier National Park and School District #6.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 6-0.

PERSONNEL:

Personnel:

The Board acknowledged the following resignations previously accepted by the Superintendent: Dawn Lorenzen – Ruder School Nurse, Caitlin Bloom – Hot Lunch Helper, Wendy Anders – Bus Driver, Ben Schaeffer – Boys’ Assistant Wrestling Coach

Motion by Cheff, second by Upton, to approve the following Elementary District hiring recommendations: Peregrine Frisell – Junior High Girls’ Basketball Coach, Glen Morden – Junior High Boys’ Basketball Coach, Kim Potter – Title I Paraeducator, Linda Hopkins – Ruder Grade Five Long Term Substitute, Sarah Rosenbaum – Junior High Industrial Arts Long Term Substitute, Michelle Amon – Custodian, Jenny Morgan – Hot Lunch Helper/Floater, RayLee LaRocque – Hot Lunch Helper/Floater

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 5-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE
ELEMENTARY HIRING
RECOMMENDATIONS

Motion by Heupel, second by Cheff, to approve the following High School/District Wide hiring recommendations: Hannah Freeman – Assistant Girls’ Wrestling Coach, Kilian Cronk – Assistant Boys’ Wrestling Coach, Trey Buckallev – Assistant Boys’ Wrestling Coach, Austin Green – Assistant Baseball Coach, Colten McPhee – High School Special Education Paraeducator, Brandon Karberg – Assistant Soccer Coach

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 6-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE
HS / DISTRICT-WIDE
HIRING
RECOMMENDATIONS

Motion by Upton, second by Cheff, to approve the substitute hiring recommendations.

Public comment was requested and there was none.

Passed 6-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE
SUBSTITUTE HIRING
RECOMMENDATIONS

Miscellaneous and Future Planning:


- Work Session Meeting: Interviews of architects for High School project – Monday, November 20, 2023 – 5:00 P.M.
- Health Insurance Committee Meeting – November 29, 2023 – 4:00 P.M.

MISCELLANEOUS
AND FUTURE
PLANNING

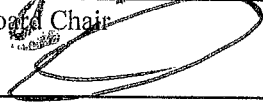
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MEETING
ADJOURNED

As there was no further business to come before the Board, Chair Rochsund adjourned the meeting at 7:30 P.M.



Board Chair



Business Manager/Clerk